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SENATE BILL 5817

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State of Washington

54th Legislature

1995 Regular Session

By Senator Sutherland

Read first time 02/07/95. Referred to Committee on Government Operations.

1 AN ACT Relating to the establishment of a telecommunications and  
2 information industries development office; adding a new section to  
3 chapter 43.330 RCW; creating a new section; and making an  
4 appropriation.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that:

7 (1) Telecommunications and information industries are a major  
8 source of economic growth nationally and in the state of Washington.  
9 It finds that more than half of the labor force in the United States is  
10 in telecommunications and information-related jobs and that, in  
11 Washington, employment in these sectors of the economy outpaces most  
12 others. It further finds that, in Washington, telecommunications and  
13 information industries offer significant employment opportunities that  
14 help offset job losses in other industries;

15 (2) Many other states are actively working to develop and promote  
16 their advanced telecommunications and information industries, thereby  
17 attracting new and existing businesses that might otherwise locate,  
18 relocate, or remain in Washington; and

1 (3) State government must work to ensure competitiveness with other  
2 states in developing the telecommunications and information industries,  
3 in attracting new business to Washington, and in addressing the needs  
4 of existing telecommunications and information businesses in the state  
5 of Washington.

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 43.330 RCW  
7 to read as follows:

8 There is created within the department the Washington  
9 telecommunications and information industries development office to  
10 promote development of the telecommunications and information  
11 industries in Washington. In administering the office, the director  
12 shall:

13 (1) Implement a strategy to attract new businesses and investment  
14 in the telecommunications and information industries to Washington and  
15 to create new business opportunities for Washington companies in those  
16 industries;

17 (2) Act as a liaison for telecommunications and information  
18 businesses seeking to locate or relocate in Washington by facilitating  
19 access to information about the state, its laws and rules, local laws  
20 and regulations, and available telecommunications infrastructure or  
21 services;

22 (3) Work with institutions of postsecondary education, including  
23 community and technical colleges, to ensure the availability of degree  
24 and nondegree programs to provide training necessary for high-  
25 technology jobs in the telecommunications and information industries;

26 (4) Conduct studies on matters affecting the health and development  
27 of the telecommunications and information industries, including but not  
28 limited to matters concerning development in rural areas, employment  
29 and training needs, and geographic or economic trends within the  
30 industries; and

31 (5) Submit an annual report, by December 31, to the legislature  
32 outlining the progress in implementing this chapter.

33 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** The sum of . . . hundred thousand dollars,  
34 or as much thereof as may be necessary, is appropriated for the  
35 biennium ending June 30, 1997, from the public service revolving fund

1 to the Washington state telecommunications and information industries  
2 development office for the purpose of providing staffing and support.

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